

Dear Superintendents and Principals:

In response to Kentucky's submission, the United States Department of Education (USDE) has designated the following areas as teacher shortage areas during the 2018 – 2019 school year.

Local Workforce Area	Critical Shortage Area(s)	Local Workforce Area	Critical Shortage Area(s)
BLUEGRASS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Childhood Ed • English as a Second Language • Foreign Language • Health & Physical Education • Social Studies • Speech/Language Pathology 	LINCOLN TRAIL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Childhood Education
CUMBERLANDS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Childhood Education • Exceptional Children 	NORTHERN KENTUCKY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exceptional Children • Health & Physical Education
EASTERN KENTUCKY CONCENTRATED EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Career & Technical Education • Early Childhood Education • English & Communications • Exceptional Children • Foreign Language • Math • Science 	SOUTHEAST/ SOUTHCENTRAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English as a Second Language • Exceptional Children
GREEN RIVER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exceptional Children • Science 	TENCO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Career & Technical Education • English & Communications • Exceptional Children • Science • Social Studies
KENTUCKIANA WORKS- GREATER LOUISVILLE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Career & Technical Education • Early Childhood Education • English as a Second Language • Exceptional Children • Foreign Language • Mathematics • Science 	WEST KENTUCKY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Career & Technical Education • Early Childhood Education • English & Communications • Exceptional Children • Health & Physical Education • Mathematics • Science • Social Studies

Approval by the USDE of these shortage areas in our state *may* benefit student grant and loan recipients who are qualified to teach in the aforementioned academic disciplines.

Benefits to student financial aid recipients, such as loan cancellations, are indicated in the following regulatory provisions:

- 34 CFR 682.210(b)(5)(ii), (q), and (s) enable a borrower who had no outstanding Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program loan on July 1, 1987, but who had an outstanding FFEL Program loan on July 1, 1993, to qualify for deferment of loan repayment under the Stafford Loan Program anytime within the life of the borrower's loan(s) for up to three years of service as full-time teacher in a private elementary or secondary school in a teacher shortage area designated by the USDE, and as certified by the chief administrative officer of the particular school in which the borrower is teaching;
- 34 CFR 674.53(c) enables Federal Perkins Loan borrowers who are full-time teachers of mathematics, science, foreign languages, bilingual education, **or any other field of expertise where the State educational agency determined there is a shortage of qualified teachers** to qualify for cancellation of up to 100% of the outstanding balance on the borrower's Federal Perkins loans; and
- 34 CFR 686.12(d) enables grant recipients to fulfill their teaching obligation under the Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant Program (regarding the requirement to serve at least four academic years, within eight years of graduation) by teaching in a "high-need field," which includes academic disciplines/subject areas identified as teacher shortage areas at the time the grant recipient begins teaching in that field.

Stafford Loan and Supplemental Loans for Students (SLS) recipients who have questions concerning their loans, including the teacher shortage area deferment, should contact the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-4FED-AID. Federal Perkins Loan borrowers should contact the college/university where they received the loan.

Sincerely,



Wayne D. Lewis, Jr., Ph.D.
Commissioner of Education